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The Eagle

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command

Volume 15, Number 4, April 2008

SMDC/ARSTRAT hosts aerostat 'Flagship Experiment' at Redstone

By Diane Schumacher
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — Norven Goddard, assistant director for Science and Technology, State of Alabama Homeland Security and director, Space and Missile Defense Battle Lab/Huntsville Operations welcomed everyone to the Flagship Experiment held at Redstone Technical Test Center 3 here on April 10. The Flagship Experiment has been using a 75-foot-long aerostat, visible up to 10 miles from the Arsenal, to show the utility of using a tethered aerostat, along with other civil and military resources, to ensure continued communication during a disaster scenario where existing communications equipment is unusable.

"We call this an experiment, not an exercise or anything like that and it started last Friday," said Goddard. He said he and others were trying to figure out how to demonstrate the HALE (High-Altitude Long-Endurance) test bed for communications, remote sensing and power systems but they "didn't do it on a napkin so it isn't real! — usually that's how the best ideas come out," he said. Paper napkins or not, good ideas were generated to gather local first responders and demonstrate how they would respond to a disaster without the use of cell phones; how to use the Virtual Alabama system without the HALE system then furnish and demonstrate the capabilities of a deployed HALE system in tandem with Virtual Alabama.

It's important to understand the Virtual Alabama program in order to understand the common operational picture for the Flagship Experiment.

About 'Virtual Alabama'

Virtual Alabama is an Alabama Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiative designed to make data sharing easier among first responders. Using Google Earth Fusion technology, this 3-D visualization tool allows users to view a wide variety of geospatial information including infrastructure, evacuation routes, flood zones, school districts and watersheds. Virtual Alabama is accessed through a secure, web-based application. VA is unlike any other program in the country as all of the data resides behind Alabama State firewalls and is wholly owned by the tax-payers of Alabama. The program currently serves more than 2,600 users representing 550 government agencies throughout the state, local and federal government.

It has users in 35 state agencies, 34 federal agencies, 14 state universities, and seven regional development councils. It is gaining national acceptance and is being considered as a "Best Practice" by Federal Homeland Security. Development of a Concept of Operations for Virtual USA is underway. Virtual Alabama was awarded the Google Enterprise "Superstar" award for innovation. Alabama's state

See *Flagship* on page 15



Photo by Diane Schumacher

HALE

On a cloudy, rainy April 10 in Huntsville, Ala. the High-Altitude Long-Endurance aerostat is tethered on a rotating platform. The aerostat flew between 1,000-3,000 feet high while at Redstone Arsenal. This HALE had a lift capacity of about 200 pounds and provided 3 kW of payload power. It is a cost-effective test platform for payloads and is a precursor of a high-altitude airship.

Prevent accidents by knowing your Soldiers

By Capt. Jason S. Shin,
Commander
Echo Company
53rd Signal Battalion

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — According to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site, research has shown that leader engagement directly impacts the reduction of accidents caused by human error.

Human error accounts for 80 percent of Army ground and aviation accidents and includes: lack of self-discipline, inadequate training, inadequate standards, complacency, overconfidence,

insufficient support and/or lack of supervision.

Unavoidable accidents do happen but leaders at all echelons have the obligation and responsibility to minimize risk. The most effective risk assessment and risk mitigation method the Army promotes is the interaction between Soldiers and their first-line leaders. Identifying and knowing those Soldiers that are high-risk is essential in preventing accidents.

One tool to guide first-line leaders on how to determine a Soldier's accident potential is the Leader's Accident Risk Assessment of Subordinates.

This assessment tool can be found on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site: <https://crc.army.mil> in the "leaders corner."

With this form, leaders can quickly and easily identify those Soldiers that are high-risk. Once identified, high-risk personnel should be counseled, trained, and closely monitored.

In addition, there is an Accident Risk Assessment for Individuals tool (https://crc.army.mil/leaderscorner/docs/accident_risk_assessment_for_individuals.pdf) that all Soldiers can use to determine their own risk level.

Obviously, this is not a magic tool that will eliminate risk

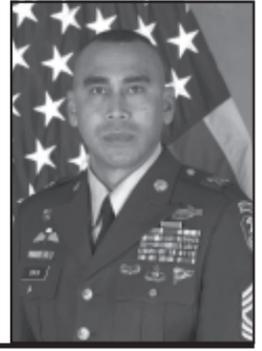
altogether. Risk assessment and mitigation is multi-dimensional and constantly changing. But this tool is a convenient and easy way to know which Soldiers to keep a close eye on. In addition, it pushes leaders to get to know their Soldiers and identify personal problems early so that the chain of command can get involved to assist in resolving those issues.

Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion on Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan requires all supervisors of Soldiers E-4 and below to incorporate this tool during their monthly counseling sessions.

The Command Corner



Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell
Commanding General



CSM Ralph C. Borja
Command Sergeant Major

Working in a headquarters building in Huntsville or Colorado Springs may make it difficult to visualize our linkage to the war in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Does our research, development or exercise planning make a difference? I would state unequivocally – yes!

There are about 149,000 Army Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They rely heavily on the products developed by the research, development and acquisition side of the command and on the services provided by the operational forces side of SMDC/ARSTRAT. America's Soldiers along with Sailors, Airmen and Marines, deserve every advantage we can provide to them in this fight against a determined enemy.

There are many battles taking place with no shortage of war fighters stepping up during times of crisis. One such battle took place in Afghanistan when an American dismounted Infantry platoon was ambushed returning from a mission. Leaders and riflemen fought for survival while protecting each other. During this particular fight a young specialist, who was wounded in both legs and his arm called for fire on the Taliban fighters in order to protect what was left of his platoon. He never gave up, never wavered even as the enemy fighters advanced to within 100 meters of his position. As the highest ranking Soldier with effective communications, he coordinated close air support, close combat attack and med-evac. His link to support was a TACSAT Radio (PSC-5). Whether in line-of sight or satellite mode, that radio was instrumental in saving his life and those of surviving members of his platoon. Always remember, there are war fighters who depend on us to do our jobs so they can do theirs.

At SMDC/ARSTRAT, we continue to expand war fighters and combatant commanders' abilities to access space-based capabilities.

One way we expand capabilities is by placing Army Space Soldiers in organizations that use space-based products and services – war fighters supporting war fighters! These Soldiers along with their counterparts from other services are providing commercial imagery to both U.S. and Iraqi forces, integrating new GPS-guided munitions into the fight, assisting in personnel recovery, and developing GPS electromagnetic interference mitigation procedures. Our goal is to assign Army Space Soldiers throughout major combat organizations in support of the war. This includes supporting Joint and sister-service organizations.

Additionally, I believe we will benefit from the Department of Defense Operationally Responsive Space program. We continue to work with the Services, the ORS office, and combatant commanders in shaping the type of capabilities the DOD pursues under the umbrella of ORS.

A SMDC/ARSTRAT space initiative that I believe will have a significant impact in the near future is the Responsive Space Initiative (RSI). The Responsive Space project is focused on rapidly responding to the emergent needs of the war fighter with effects from space and high altitude capabilities. We are excited about our first RSI Pathfinder project.

SMDC/ARSTRAT and our industry partners are in the process of developing, building and presenting for launch at least eight nano-satellite space vehicles with funding support from other organizations. Our goal is to launch within the next 9-12 months. We believe that this "swarm" of low-cost nano-satellites will

As we continue our discussion on Army values and their importance to the men and women who serve our great nation as members of the United States Army, we come to the letter R in the acronym "LDRSHIP." R is there to remind us of the importance of giving and earning respect. Army Field Manual 6-22 defines respect.

RESPECT: Treat people as they should be treated.

As noted in FM 6-22, "Respect for the individual is the basis for the rule of law—the very essence of what the Nation stands for. In the Army, respect means treating others as they should be treated. This value reiterates that people are the most precious resource and that one is bound to treat others with dignity and respect."

Respect is very important to each and every one of us. Most of us are taught from childhood to respect our elders, our teachers, the feelings of others, law, and the values and customs of our family and country. Hopefully, we're also taught to respect the values and customs of people who are different from us or who hail from different countries. This fundamental value is absolutely critical to the overall morale and welfare of Army Personnel.

A unit that works under a cloud of disrespect, an environment where common respect for others is not given, or one where the leader or leaders have failed to earn the respect of the team is destined for failure. No one works well, much less at an optimum level in an environment where the person does not feel respected or valued. A leader might compel performance based upon threat or promise of reward—for a short period of time, but long term success and the ability to build and adapt for the future depends upon an environment of respect.

FM 6-22 instructs us to "consistently foster a climate in which everyone is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of race, gender, creed, or religious belief." Successfully building such a "climate of respect" requires strong leadership by example. "How a leader lives the Army Values shows subordinates how they should behave. Teaching values is one of a leader's most important responsibilities. It helps create a common understanding of the Army Values and expected standards."

This being said, we must not come to believe that fostering a climate of respect is solely the responsibility of our leaders. Each of us is responsible for our actions towards others and the impact of those actions upon the unit. The old adage that "one bad apple spoils the whole barrel" is absolutely true when it comes to respect. If a member of the unit fails to respect others within the unit, it won't be long before resentment builds, divisions occur, and the climate of respect is totally destroyed.

Respect and self-respect are also deeply connected. It's almost impossible for us to respect others if we don't respect ourselves, and it's equally hard to respect ourselves if others don't respect us. Loss of self-respect occurs for many reasons. It can be caused by slipping into actions or habits—alcohol or drug abuse for example—that run counter to your values or it can be fostered by enduring abuse or disrespect from someone we love or respect.

People are respected for their actions towards others and towards themselves. This lesson was driven home for me during my recent visits to our SMDC Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. The respect our Soldiers have earned from both their fellow Service Members and local citizens in theater, speaks volumes about the criticality of respect within the Army.

See **CG's column** on page 3

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

The Eagle ... is an authorized unofficial newspaper published for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command published under the authority of AR 360-1. The editorial style applies the industry standard Associated Press Stylebook. Contents of *The Eagle* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or SMDC/ARSTRAT. This monthly newspaper uses offset reproduction and has a circulation of 2,250. Reader input is solicited and welcomed; however, no payment will be made for such contributions. For more information about SMDC/ARSTRAT or to view *The Eagle* on-line, visit our Web site at www.smdc.army.mil.

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What We Think

April is the month of the Military Child

Children are our future: How can we build a better tomorrow for the children of the United States?



Zakiyyah Shakoor
Workforce Liaison Specialist
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To secure a better future for children in the United States, a cooperative effort is needed by parents, educators, and the community at large. Children today are faced with a multitude of problems and pressures unprecedented before this period in time. Drugs, AIDS, violence, teenage pregnancy, and family dysfunction are just a few of the obstacles that stand in their way of success. More emphasis needs to be placed on building stronger, healthier families. For children to learn the basic, yet core values of cooperation, love, respect, trust, and tolerance, they must grow up in a healthy family environment. When parents, educators, and concerned community members work together they will greatly assist children into becoming stronger, well-adjusted leaders for tomorrow.



Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Etheridge
AKARNG, Fort Greely, AK
Force Protection NCOIC

A better tomorrow for our children is being paid everyday by our Soldiers and all Americans here and abroad in every walk of life to defend this great nation and the values in which we believe. I believe as a Soldier as long as we all live by our seven Army values in our every word or actions, our children will learn what right looks like. They will be able to go out into the world in the future and will be able to take the Hard Right over the Easy Wrong. We all impact tomorrow...



Regina Taylor
Program Analyst, G-1 Office
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

We can build a better tomorrow in the United States by protecting our children from harm (sexual abuse, violence, and drugs) and by teaching them at an early age to be self-sufficient. Early education at least should include: biblical studies, home training, political science, academic studies, work ethics, financial management, horticulture, and proper diet management. Early education should be started as early as 3 years old. Everything we learn early seems to remain in our mind forever. Also, if we learn the basics of anything we can always cultivate and expand that knowledge base.



As a retired educator I believe there are two essentials: making our educational system performance-based for both students and teachers; and a positive involvement of parents in their children's lives — including their education.

Nelson A. Miller
Management Assistant
G-1 Office
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CG's column

continued from page 2

demonstrate the feasibility of providing militarily useful effects from nano-SAT class payloads to satisfy war fighter needs for beyond-line-of-sight communications as well as other

capabilities.

We are in an era of persistent conflict and we are directly contributing to the fight. To support our war fighters, we need to continue to think outside the box. Our war fighters have become sophisticated users of space-based assets in the fight against an

adaptive enemy and depend on us to provide them the best capabilities and the right equipment. America's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines are giving their best and we can do no less.

SECURE THE HIGH GROUND!

Celebrating Women

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command celebrated women during the annual Women's Equality Day observance March 25. Guest speaker, Frances Terrazas-Alexander, director of Human Resources at Pueblo Community College, spoke at the event sponsored by the SMDC/ARSTRAT Equal Employment Opportunity office and the special emphasis committee. Terrazas-Alexander shared her story of success through determination, and encouraged women to never give up on their education regardless of their age or circumstances.



Photo by Sharon L. Hartman

Law Day 2008

By Col. Cheryl R. Lewis
Staff Judge Advocate/
Command Counsel
SMDC/ARSTRAT

President Dwight D. Eisenhower began the tradition of celebrating the law in 1958. By Proclamation 3221, he designated May 1, 1958 as Law Day. By joint resolution of Congress in 1961, May 1 of every year became the permanent designated Law Day.

Since that time our nation's

prominent legal organizations have adopted the month of May to showcase various aspects of the legal profession and how the law impacts our daily lives.

President John F. Kennedy in his 1962 Law Day Proclamation said, "One of the great challenges of our age is man's struggle to sustain individual freedom, human dignity, and justice for all; and ... one of the vital bulwarks in that struggle is the rule of law which underlies our whole social, economic, and governmental structure."

Each year a theme to honor a facet of the law is chosen and

the theme is used to educate and promote international, national and community awareness of the legal profession and its professional members.

The theme in 1958 was "a day of national dedication to the principle of government under the law."

This year's theme in honor of the 50th anniversary is "The Rule of Law." The rule of law provides left and right boundaries for public officials and citizens alike.

Our founding fathers recognized the need for the law early on in our nation's history. Then

there was a need to end political tyranny and injustice and provide stability as a new nation with the capability of governing itself. Today the law touches every area of our daily life - home, work and play.

Laws impact our free society and provide for benefits of personal safety, employment and commerce, health and environment, education, transportation, security, housing and government at all levels.

As we go about the business of our daily lives, we should take time to acknowledge the benefits of the rule of law in our nation.

Safety

Alcohol Safety

If you choose to drink, it's important to pay attention to how alcohol affects your body. If you choose not to drink, it's equally important to look out for friends who may be using too much alcohol. Know the facts about how alcohol affects your body. Use your head when (and if) you drink.

The effects of alcohol vary enormously from person to person; different physiological and hormonal effects can mean that it's hard to predict how much is too much at any given time. When you drink too much alcohol, a condition known as acute alcohol toxicity, or alcohol poisoning, can occur. This means that the amount of alcohol in your bloodstream is high enough to affect the functioning of basic body processes like respiration and kidney, liver, and brain functions. Over-consumption of alcohol can lead to unconsciousness, vomiting, brain damage, and even death.

Dangerous over-consumption of alcohol has the following warning signs, which can include:

- the person has passed out, or is asleep and cannot be aroused, or can only be slightly aroused for a few moments
- the person's breathing is very slow, and perhaps irregular
- the person's pulse is weak, or is either very slow or very fast
- the person is vomiting
- the person's skin underneath the fingernails is blue

What you can do:

Over-consumption of alcohol can be life threatening. Anyone who is experiencing alcohol over-consumption should get immediate medical attention. If any warning signs are evident (see signs listed above) or if there is a question of drug and alcohol intoxication, call 911.

Things NOT to do when helping an intoxicated person:

- Don't leave the person alone. An intoxicated person is not safe.
- Don't give any drugs or medication (not even aspirin!) to the person to try to sober him or her. Don't give the person food in attempts to "absorb the alcohol." This will increase risk of vomiting.
- Don't give the person coffee, tea, or other liquid stimulants. You'll just have a wide-awake, agitated, drunk person.
- Don't give the person a cold shower. He or she could fall, or pass out and be injured in the process. Don't try to exercise the person in hopes of "burning off the booze." This will not help, and could cause injuries.

More suggestions for helping a person who is experiencing acute alcohol toxicity:

- Keep the person comfortable.
- Position a drunk person on his or her side or stomach if he or she goes to bed, or passes out. Be sure the person is not lying on his or her back because if he/she vomits, he/she could choke and suffocate.
- Keep the person from driving, biking, or transporting him or herself anywhere alone.
- Keep your distance if the person gets agitated. Some people who are usually very

gentle-natured may become violent when intoxicated.

- Talk to the person about his or her behavior under the influence of alcohol later on, in a private place. Don't be surprised if you encounter denial or irritation.

Blood alcohol level (BAL)

Remember the blood alcohol level is the amount of alcohol present in your blood as you drink. It's calculated by determining how many milligrams of alcohol are present in 100 milliliters of blood. But you don't need a Breathalyzer, a calculator, or a measurement conversion chart to figure out what BAL you had last night. Harvard University has an interesting and educational website regarding alcohol consumption and a BAL chart. Go to <http://empoweringyou.college.harvard.edu/besafe/bal-chart.html>. This generalized chart is based on a person who is metabolizing (or breaking down) one drink an hour. For example if you are a 120 pound female drinking seven drinks in one hour, your BAL is a .30%.

Above all, remember to be responsible, plan for your events, and keep your buddy informed.



Google image

From the Milwaukee *Journal Sentinel*, May 2, 2007:

"A new study has found that over time, drinking alcohol, whether moderately or heavily, was associated with decreased brain volume.

And while heavy drinkers had significantly less brain volume than light or moderate drinkers, only abstainers were found to have no alcohol-related brain atrophy.

Compared with the non-drinkers, all of the groups had progressively greater amounts of decreased brain volume, with the biggest decrease in the heavy drinkers. The heavy drinking group had a 1.25% decrease in brain volume."

Staying safe during a thunderstorm

While thunderstorms can put on a spectacular display of light and sound, they can also be extremely dangerous — even deadly. Dangers associated with thunderstorms include lightning, hail, heavy rain, flooding, strong winds, and tornados. Knowing what to do before, during, and after Mother Nature strikes is key to protecting your family and home from this very real threat.

Know the difference between a "watch" and a "warning"

Dark, low rolling clouds, lightning, and thunder are the most common signs of an approaching thunderstorm. If these conditions exist, check your local news to see if a thunderstorm watch has been issued. In case of a watch, stay vigilant and start making preparations to take shelter. If an actual thunderstorm has been spotted or picked up on radar, a warning will be issued which means it's time to take shelter. Severe weather warnings are issued on a county basis, so know your county's name.

Calculate how far away the storm is from you

In case you do not have access to the news, a good way to determine if you're in danger is to count the seconds between seeing the lightning and hearing the thunder. If the time is 30 seconds or less, the lightning is close enough to be a threat and you should take shelter.

Taking shelter

If a thunderstorm is approaching, stay inside. Don't take a bath or shower or run any water. Unplug all electrical appliances. Avoid using the telephone unless it's an emergency. Close the windows, window coverings, and doors. Wait for the storm to pass.

Protecting yourself outside

Stay in your car with the windows up. Avoid touching any metal in the car. If you're swimming or in a boat, get out of the water immediately. Avoid being under any trees, telephone poles, or tall isolated object that could get hit by lightning. If you don't have a car, go to a low-lying open place away from trees, poles, or metal objects. Squat low to the ground, and make yourself as small as possible. Do not lie flat on the ground as you are more likely to get hit by lightning. In the woods, take shelter under shorter trees.

Stay put after the thunderstorm

Stay inside for at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning. More than half of lightning deaths occur after the storm has passed. Stay tuned to your local forecast for further information. In case of any damage to your home, take pictures for filing an insurance claim.

Keep these items handy

During a thunderstorm, you may lose power. Be prepared by gathering these items and storing them in a place you can easily access in the dark: a portable radio, fresh batteries, a flashlight, candles and matches, blankets (especially in winter), a storm kit that has fresh water and pre-packaged foods (for at least 72 hours) and a first-aid kit.



Google image

Motorcycles – fun or fatal

**By Capt. Timothy M. Brower
Battalion S-2
49th Missile Defense
Battalion**

FORT GREELY, Alaska — As winter comes to an end at Fort Greely, Alaska, riders prepare to remove their bikes from storage and take to the roads. But this year, Soldiers are committing to operate their bikes safely so that motorcycles remain fun, not fatal.

On March 21, motorcycle enthusiasts from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion at Fort Greely joined together to sign the Battalion's Motorcycle Safety Agreement and Rider's Covenant. All Soldiers in the unit who own and operate a motorcycle — 19 in all — signed the covenant.

The battalion's motorcycle training included a video by Maj. Gen. James Nuttall, deputy director of the Army National Guard, National Guard Bureau, reminding Soldiers that U.S. Army mandates personal protective equipment is required at all times, regardless of state requirements. This video is available on the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site at: <https://crc.army.mil/multimedia>, look for "videos" on the screen, then for "Army Safety Videos."

As part of the covenant,

Soldiers agree to wear the following:

- A Department of Transportation approved motorcycle safety helmet and eye protection
- Long sleeve shirt or jacket
- Long sturdy pants
- Sturdy boots or over the ankle footwear
- Full fingered gloves
- Brightly colored outer upper garment

Additionally, Soldiers agreed to complete the Army-approved Motorcycle Safety Course.

Commenting on the training, Lt. Col. Ted Hildreth, commander, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, explained, "I wanted to personalize motorcycle safety with my Soldiers. We expect and they deliver sound decision making on the Missile Defense Complex everyday – that's what I want them to apply to motorcycle safety. Wear the right gear, certify on the bike they own and take care of one another when they are riding together."

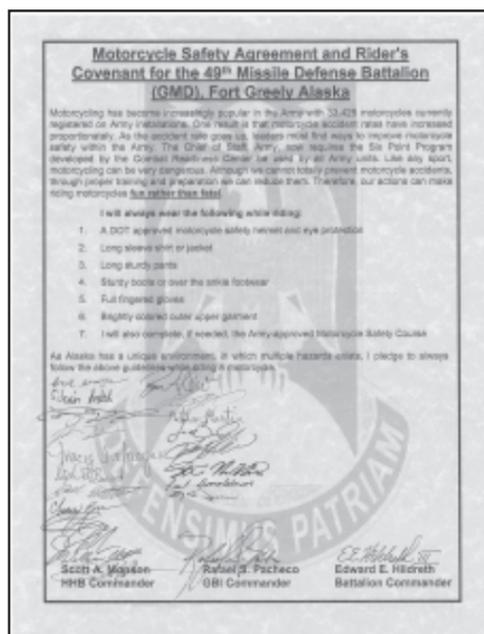


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Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson III

Motorcycle enthusiasts from the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD) celebrate signing the Battalion's Motorcycle Safety Agreement and Rider's Covenant.



Covenant with signatures of 49th MDB (GMD) Soldiers who've promised to operate their motorcycles in a safe manner and wear personal protective equipment at all times while assigned to the battalion.

Individual information security awareness and responsibilities

**By Brenda Turner, Information Security
SMDC/ARSTRAT, Redstone Arsenal**

As Department of Defense employees who occupy positions that require access to classified information, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command employees become subjects of a personnel security investigation.

A PSI is an inquiry into the loyalty, integrity, discretion, morals, and character of an individual employed by or under contract to the US Government. The purpose of the investigation is to determine a person's trustworthiness for access to classified information. Once the investigation is completed, the Department of Defense Central Adjudicating Facility grants a security clearance based upon a favorable adjudication of the investigative results. When the security clearance is granted, the first of three necessary requirements have been met to have access to classified information.

The second requirement is to sign a Standard Form 312, a Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement. This is required by a presidential directive which states: All persons with authorized access to classified information shall be required to sign a nondisclosure agreement between the U.S. government and a cleared employee, in which the employee agrees to never disclose classified information to an unauthorized

person. The form primarily informs the employee that:

- Trust is placed in the employee by providing access to classified information.
- The employee is responsible to protect that information from unauthorized disclosure.
- Consequences may result from failure to meet those responsibilities.

The third requirement is "need-to-know". The custodian of classified information is responsible for confirming the requestor's identity, clearance, and need-to-know prior to disclosing the information.

What is classified information?

This is information that requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national security. It has three designations:

Top Secret: This is applied to information whose unauthorized disclosure could reasonably cause exceptionally grave damage to national security. Accountability of these documents are handled by the TSCO (Top Secret Control Officer).

Secret: This is applied to information whose unauthorized disclosure could reasonably cause serious damage to national security.

Confidential: This is applied to information whose unauthorized disclosure could reasonably cause damage to national security.

Classification of information

Classifying information may not be used:

- to conceal violation of law
- to conceal an inefficiency
- to conceal administrative errors
- to prevent embarrassment
- to restrain competition

Original Classification is an initial determination by an OCA (Original Classification Authority), designated in writing, who determines the information requires protection against unauthorized disclosure in the interest of national security.

Derivative Classification is information that is derived from other classified sources and incorporated into a new document. The majority of all classification decisions in the Army are derivative. This information is:

- Restated from another source
- Already classified
- Marked consistent with the source material

Examples of source documents:

- Security Classification Guide
- Army Regulation
- OPLAN
- Electronic message
- Report or memorandum

CG runs town hall meeting for his Redstone team

By Diane Schumacher
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — On March 13, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general for U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command conducted a town hall meeting for SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers and civilians.

Campbell opened with an awards session where he presented employment longevity certificates to six civilian employees: Michael C. Schexnayder, (senior executive service) deputy to the commander, Research, Development and Acquisition, for 35 years federal service; Dr. Mark L. Swinson (senior executive service), chief scientist, for 35 years federal service; Melvin Kelley, Equal Employment Opportunity officer, for 35 years federal service; George W. Welch Jr., general engineer, Technical Center, for 30 years federal service; Richard A. Runyan, general engineer, Technical Center, for 30 years federal service; and Mary D. Peoples, equal employment manager, EEO Office, for 30 years federal service.

Peoples graced the audience — to their apparent delight — with a loud Army “Hooah!” upon receipt of her certificate. After the presentations these employees received a deafening round of applause from the audience in recognition of their dedication.

Campbell started off his discussion with the new SMDC/ARSTRAT vision, mission priorities and guiding principles he recently published in a memorandum to command employees.

“Please read the document; it’ll take a few minutes,” Campbell said. “I hope you’ll find it helpful in your daily work. It isn’t designed to restrict you.” Rather, he pointed out that the guidelines are designed to focus efforts of Soldiers and civilians throughout the command in the accomplishment of our strategic objectives. [The memorandum, dated Feb. 22, 2008, can be found on the SMDC/ARSTRAT CommandNet Web page, to the right on the screen in the “Commanding General” section, click on “memos, briefs & speeches.”]

Campbell discussed the recent National Security Personnel System pay pool, the first for the command.

“I think the fairness of it worked out well,” he said, further stating that there was parity between the Colorado Springs, Colo. and Huntsville pay pools.

He also point out that the command



Photo by Joe Ramirez

Length of service awardees (left to right): Michael C. Schexnayder, Dr. Mark L. Swinson, Melvin Kelley, George W. Welch, Mary D. Peoples, Richard A. Runyan. Standing at the podium is Maj. Steven Murphy, SGS.

results were comparable to Army and DOD pay pools. “The average pay pool score in SMDC/ARSTRAT was 3.69 whereas DOD/Army was 3.4,” he said, and pointed out that the SMDC/ARSTRAT pay pool “was done as fairly and squarely as could be done.”

He said that the process revealed the importance of writing accurate and appropriate evaluations. “We have to make sure senior raters and supervisors know how to write ratings, that they know what to say and what not to say,” Campbell said. “The rater plays a very key role in how you come out in this,” he said of the NSPS process.

Campbell talked about an SMDC/ARSTRAT unit climate survey that was taken in October. Of the 35 percent of employees who completed it; 55 percent were civilians and 45 percent were military. He said that while the ratings on these surveys are usually varied, he looked for trends and patterns in the data.

“Three areas caught my attention,” he said.

He said that employees indicated that the “recognition and reward systems doesn’t seem to be working well.”

“Communication was cited on the survey as not being good,” he said. While he said that the survey results did not indicate at what level communication problems existed, “communication is something all supervisors have to take action on to ensure information is getting out.”

Campbell added that it is also his responsibility to inform, and added, “we’ll

do more town halls and we’re going to do them more frequently.”

“This one really caught my eye,” he said of the third issue. Fear of reprisal was noted in the survey results. Campbell said, “some people said they were concerned that ‘if I say something not popular with my supervisor, then it’s going to come back to hurt me in some way.’”

Campbell was adamant about not tolerating reprisal.

“If you feel reprisal is an issue, you just march up the chain [of command],” said Campbell. “You should not tolerate it. The same goes for sexual harassment. If you don’t move on it, then it’s hard for us to take appropriate action.” He said that if an employee feels threatened by a supervisor, to take the issue to the next level of above them. “Have faith in the chain of command. Don’t be afraid to take it up the chain.”

Campbell next discussed the changing relationship between the Missile Defense Agency and SMDC/ARSTRAT.

He noted that a new memorandum of agreement between the two organizations was completed in February that will tailor support SMDC/ARSTRAT provides MDA to five specific technical and administrative areas by FY2010.

“My goal is once we’re into calendar year 2010, that our organization is focused on the right things about space and missile defense,” Campbell said. “I’m going to focus our efforts into the areas of our core competencies; to be doing it in the right way to support U.S. Strategic Command and the Army.”

Debra Wymer selected for Senior Executive Service

By Andy Roake, SMDC/
ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Debra Wymer was recently selected to be director of Technology Integration and Interoperability for Space and Missile Defense, which is a senior executive service assignment. She will head the Technical Interoperability and Matrix Center.

In her prior position, Wymer was deputy to the director of the Technical Center and also managed Technical Center operations, a position she held since April 2006.

Wymer began her career in 1982 working for the U.S. Air Force as an aerospace engineer on the E-3 AWACS

program. She has worked ballistic missile defense programs since transferring to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command in 1986.

She served as an engineer in the High Endoatmospheric Defense Interceptor Project Office from 1986 to 1992. In 1992, she was assigned to the Theater Missile Defense Program Office of Program Executive Office Air, Space and Missile Defense, where she served as chief of the Systems Integration Branch.

Wymer served in a developmental assignment on the Office of the Secretary of Defense staff from 1994-1995. In this assignment, she served

as the staff assistant for TMD for the deputy director, Strategic and Tactical Systems (missile warfare).

In 1995, Wymer became chief of the Analysis Division in the Missile Defense Battle Integration Center at USASMDC. She was responsible for conducting system level analyses in support of BMD and cruise missile defense activities.

Wymer served as staff engineer to the director of the Space and Missile Defense Acquisition Center from 1999-2000.

In June 2000 until April 2006, she served as director, Technical Management Directorate, PEO ASMD. In



Debra Wymer

this position she was responsible for managing systems engineering and integration technical efforts.

Bravo Company pins on new achievement

**By Sgt. Matt Davidson
Unit Reporter
Bravo Company
53rd Signal Battalion**

FORT MEADE, Md. – Soldiers of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion were recognized for their outstanding service when select individuals were awarded the Air Force Space Badge. On Feb. 27, the controllers were presented with the badge by Col. Timothy Coffin, the 1st Space Brigade commander, at a special ceremony at the Fort George G. Meade Museum. Coffin took time to explain to the Soldiers the history of the Space Badge and how it was his pleasure to make this special trip to present these awards.

For many Soldiers, attaining recognition of this magnitude was not trivial.

“It was really great of the brigade commander, battalion

commander and battalion command sergeant major to show how much they appreciate the work we do,” said Sgt. Thomas Tabor.

“A lot of people don’t realize the long hours we put into this MOS [military occupation specialty] and all the time we spend away from our families. Getting to pin this neat-looking badge on my uniform inspires me to feel that much more proud of the work I do. Not too many people in the Army get to wear this. I’m that much more proud of my job.”

That job entails 24-hour monitoring of the Defense Satellite Communications System constellation, ensuring that important military users’ long-haul communications needs are met without overexerting the satellites’ technological capabilities. Further duties include



Photos by 2nd Lt. Michael M. Sherron

Col. Timothy Coffin, 1st Space Brigade commander, presents the Senior Air Force Space Badge to Sgt. Joshua Rodriguez (L) and the Basic Air Force Space Badge to Sgt. John Wischmeier (R) at a ceremony at the Fort George G. Meade Museum Feb. 27.

commanding and tracking satellites, assisting users with real world communications difficulties all over the world, and managing communications databases.

Not all of Bravo Company’s controllers received the award.

Receipt of the award was limited to those who successfully completed the Satellite Network Controller course and have worked in a Wideband Satellite Communication Operations Center for a minimum of one year.

Echo Soldiers receive coveted space badge

**By Sgt. Vicente Gonzalez, Unit Reporter
Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion**

FORT BUCKNER, OKINAWA, Japan — The Soldiers of Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion have a job that is as important as it gets. The hard working Soldiers of Echo Company, as all Soldiers of the 53rd Signal Battalion, are on duty 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week — no matter what — ensuring global communications are up and running. It seems that as in no other time has this mission been as important as it is now. With the ongoing conflicts around the world and the exponential increase in demand for communications, satellites play a huge role in today’s military.

Although today’s military depends on reliable communications more than ever, the people who actually keep the lines of communications open rarely get noticed. Only on certain occasions are the military’s communicators recognized for the support they provide to entire military community.

Recently, Soldiers in Echo Company were formally awarded the new Air Force space

badge in recognition of their training as Satellite Network Controllers. The space badge is awarded to those who have been trained in at least one of the many disciplines of space operations. Echo Company Soldiers were lucky enough to be formally awarded their new badges by their top commander, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command.

During his brief visit to Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Campbell expressed his gratitude to Echo Company for their hard work and dedication to the mission. He also stressed how important it is to keep up the lines of communication across the globe. After a firm handshake each Soldier who met the required training as a satellite network controller and had worked in a WSOC (Wideband SatCom Operations Center) for at least one year was awarded a space badge by Campbell.

This badge is quite an honor considering how much training goes into being eligible for the badge, not to mention how few Army Soldiers are bestowed the honor to receive



Photo courtesy Echo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

Soldiers from Echo Company pose with their commander, Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense/Army Forces Strategic Command. They were presented the new Air Force Space Badge by Campbell at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan.

the Air Force space badge. The new space badge is worn much like airborne wings, in a prominent place on the Soldier’s chest to signify the skills they have accrued while in the Army Space community. The Echo Company Soldiers will wear it proudly as proof of their accomplishments and their skills as Army Space Professionals.

Colonel inducted as Army Space Pioneer

**By Andy Roake and
Mike Howard,
SMDC/ARSTRAT
Public Affairs**

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – More than 50 people applauded in the foyer of Building 3 while retired Army Col. Ronan Ellis was honored on April 11 as the fourth space pioneer recognized by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commander

of SMDC/ARSTRAT hosted the ceremony and helped Ellis unveil his photograph, which will hang in the Space Pioneer Conference Room in Building 3 alongside the photographs of other space pioneers. Ellis was the first commandant of the Army Space Institute and the second commander of Army Space Command.

Ellis had an almost prophetic vision of Army space operations that laid the groundwork for almost all of the Army’s current use and dependence on space-



Photo by Dennis Howk, Dept. of USAF

Col. Ronan Ellis and Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell unveil Ellis’ official Army photograph that will hang in the Space Pioneer Conference Room.

based capabilities and products which has immeasurably impacted the way today’s Army and the Army of the

future will shoot, move and communicate.

He was directly responsible for putting GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) receivers into the hands of ground forces prior to offensive operations during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. While the GPS constellation at the time was not fully complete, the small light-weight GPS receivers, informally called “sluggers,” enabled ground forces to find their way through the flat, featureless deserts in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Campbell pointed out that Ellis’ efforts enabled Soldiers to find their way in a new way, to know where friendly forces were in a navigation-challenging terrain and undoubtedly saved countless lives.

Previous Army Space Pioneer inductees include retired Maj. Gen. John Medaris, who contributed to the successful launch of America’s first satellite; retired Brig. Gen. Robert Stewart, the first Army astronaut; and retired Lt. Gen. C.J. Le Van, who was a visionary in missile defense.

Nothing but the “whole nine yards”...

Senior NCOs train, bond, share years of experiences

By Dottie White
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Senior noncommissioned officers of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command gathered here March 23-26 for the 2008 SMDC/ARSTRAT Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference.

“We are gathering together this week for a little bonding, teamwork, socializing and sharing of experiences with our brethren who are here at today’s conference,” said SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph C. Borja. “This is what it’s all about — dialoguing and interacting with one another, getting advice and input ... the whole nine yards.”

Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general, SMDC/ARSTRAT, spoke to the group about the importance of their mission. He remarked about their great courage and enthusiasm and how they know there is no giving up on the battlefield.

“We have these detachments spread around the world operating 24/7 — whether it’s providing communications or imagery or a special space capability, which we have within our combat formations — these things are ongoing all

the time, so there is no stopping or shutting down for the weekend,” said Campbell.

“I’m impressed each time I go out there to see the professionalism, leadership and enthusiasm amongst your Soldiers doing what they have to do.

“I can say after a year and three months in this business, not once have we failed a COCOM [combatant command] or an Army Unit in providing a service we said we were going to provide,” Campbell said. “A lot of that is about you in this room. It’s about you leading the troops, making sure they are trained and ready, day in and day out. I commend you for what you do every day, and your mission is every day, 24/7.”

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston spoke to the group about the big picture of what is going on in the Army. He also focused on the current pace of deployment that the Army is currently under and what the future holds as it’s tied to predictability and stability for Soldiers and their Families and also strategic messages about telling the Army story.

Other sessions on day one included an overview briefing on the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System (DIHMRS) by Master Sgt. Marlin Simms; a research, development and acquisition overview brief by Michael C. Schexnayder, deputy to the commander for RDA; and a

Future Warfare Center brief by Terry Nelson, SMDC/ARSTRAT Battle Lab.

Day two sessions kicked off with a war fighter overview brief by Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, 82nd Airborne Division, who recently returned from a 15-month tour in Afghanistan.

Day two also included briefings from Sgt. Maj. Thomas S. Gills and Sgt. Maj. Arlita Crawford from the Human Resources Command who discussed NCO and enlisted promotions; Lorese Dudley, SMDC/ARSTRAT Safety Office provided a safety overview briefing; and Col. Kendal Cunningham, SMDC/ARSTRAT G-3, discussed command priorities and objectives for fiscal years 2008-2009.

The second day concluded with a former SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sergeants Major discussion panel with Sgt. Maj. Randall Williams as the moderator. Then former SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgts. Maj. Wilbur V. Adams (April 2000-March 2003) and William O. “Bill” Morgan (February 1996-June 1997) provided opening remarks followed by questions from the NCOs in attendance.

On the final day of the conference, the senior NCOs split into two groups to go on a staff ride and tour at the Satellite Development Plant in El Segundo, Calif. The attendees received briefings and were able to see up-close how this unique facility operates and produces satellites.



Photos by DJ Montoya

Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston speaks during the Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference about what’s going on in the Army. He focused on the current pace of deployments the Army is under and what the future holds for Soldiers and their Families.



1st Sgt. John H. Bruce, G-3 SMDC/ARSTRAT, Colorado Springs, Colo. discusses the issue of uniform changes with SMA Preston.



Courtesy Photo

Conferences must always maintain a decorum of seriousness, but it’s always good to start them off with good esprit de corps, which was the case here. The Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference started with a golf tournament March 23. Here is a golfer who lost his golf ball in the foliage. Perhaps standing on this huge stump helped him locate it amongst the flowers and weeds.



During a break at the Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston (center), SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph C. Borja (left) and 1st Sgt. Kenneth L. Mackey Jr., (right) from the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll discuss an article in the *Army Times* about the 20- year-rule regarding retirement. The article said servicemembers in the future may have to wait until age 55 before re-cooping the benefits of their 20 years of service. SMA Preston said there had been talk over the years to do that but any changes in the retirement system will have to be passed through Congress and if such a change passes, not everyone will be affected; some servicemembers will be grandfathered.



Lt. Gen. Kevin T. Campbell, commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (center), Command Sgt. Major Ralph C. Borja, SMDC/ARSRAT (left), and Command Sgt. Major Thomas Capel, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg N.C. (right), carry on a lively discussion during a break at the Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., March 23-27.



U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Command Sgt. Major Ralph C. Borja (left) meets with two former SMDC/ARSTRAT command sergeants major, Wilbur V. Adams (center) and William O. Morgan (right) during the Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference March 23-27 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

Position before submission

Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Soldiers from Echo Company 53rd Signal Battalion were able to join fellow Space Brigade Soldiers in Stuttgart, about two hours away, for a Modern Army Combatives course. Sgt. Edward Grant, Sgt. Mark Wasmundt, Spc. Matthew Heard and Spc. John Bench did not know what to expect from class but were raring to go.

"I was really excited to find out I would be able to attend this class," said Bench. "I had always wanted to become a better hand-to-hand fighter. I think being a good fighter is one of the defining marks of a Soldier."

Class started out with warm-ups which were very important because they prepared their bodies to use muscles not used during normal routines. A lot of the warm-ups also prepared them for movements they would be making during the drills. The importance of the drills was to teach dominant body positions. After they were good with positions, they were taught submissions such as the rear naked choke and various arm bars.

Grant had been asked by the other instructors to attend as a puncher which is something only Level 2 combative-certified Soldiers are allowed to do.

"I think combatives should be a welcome addition to any unit because it is good physical training and gives Soldiers confidence," said Grant.

"It was very rewarding being able to pass on my knowledge and see the different techniques being used in the gauntlet. Attending as an instructor showed me how much I had learned from my Level 1 and 2 courses, and I hope to help out again."

The gauntlet was a battle circle in which a Soldier fought all the other Soldiers in the circle one right after the other, for two minute intervals, until they had fought everyone. Then the next Soldier did the same. The purpose was to tire the fighter out and make technique the main factor in deciding who controlled the fight.

Because fighters are relying more on strength on the first and second days of class, that's when injuries usually can occur. The clinch drill came next with Soldiers learning how to take a standing fight to the ground. This drill really

reinforced the importance of Soldiers protecting themselves.

The final day was test day. The Soldiers had to take a written exam on the history of the martial arts used in Modern Army Combatives. They also had a practical in which they had to instruct something they had been taught during class.

Bench concluded, "I had a lot of fun and I look forward to training fellow squad members on the things I have learned."



Photo courtesy Charlie Company, 53rd Sig Bn

Spc. John Bench and Sgt. Edward Grant duke it out during recent combative training in Stuttgart, Germany.

Control Warriors befriend Transition Warriors

**By Sgt. John Bittner
Unit Reporter,
Charlie Company,
53rd Signal Battalion**

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Charlie Company, 53rd Signal Battalion "Control Warriors" support the war fighter by providing satellite network coordination for units in Iraq and Afghanistan. For them, the war is on the other end of the phone line, but being situated right down the street from the Landstuhl Regional

Medical Center the Control Warriors see the realities of the war first hand.

It was recently announced that an interesting unit was created at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. It is called the WTU (Warrior Transition Unit) and is designed for a different type of warrior.

In order to assure that injured Soldiers receive the highest standard in outpatient care, and to give Soldiers the most time and resources toward a possible

transition out of the service, the Army Medical Department developed this program.

The units are starting to form at all major U.S. military medical facilities in the United States and overseas.

By design it is intended to transition Soldiers back to active duty or into the civilian world. This unit allows Soldiers the time to make all necessary appointments, go through extensive rehab without the strain of their regular work environment, or go

through the medical evaluation board process in a more streamlined manner. According to the Department of the Army, 70 percent of all Warrior Transition Soldiers actually do return to active duty. This program is not designed to end a Soldier's military career, but to assist that Soldier in any way possible.

Going through a medical evaluation board can be a very stressful time for servicemembers and their family members. It's hard not knowing

what lies in the future, but the Warrior Transition Program will hopefully make this process a little easier.

The Control Warriors have been able to make great friends with some of the Transition Warriors, sharing stories about their deployments, or giving good tips about Landstuhl, and the surrounding area.

Knowing their new friends in the WTU are being taken care of in a good way helps make life better for the Control Warriors of Charlie Co.

Bravo takes strides to improve marriages

**By Sgt. Nick Murja,
Unit Reporter,
Bravo Company,
53rd Signal Battalion**

FORT MEADE, Md. — The statistics don't lie: 60 percent of civilian marriages fail. Add long hours, shift work, the unpredictable Army lifestyle and sustaining a nuclear family in the Army is difficult.

This February, five couples from Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion devoted three much deserved days for a retreat to deepen their relationships.

How the retreat came to be is a story in itself. A non-commissioned officer from Bravo Company e-mailed the Sandy Cove Retreat Center in Northeast Maryland explaining that the company had been hit by a string of recent marriage

problems. The idea was to provide a place where, regardless of the condition of the marriage, couples could have a chance to strengthen their marriage, away from their children and rigors of daily life.

Only three short days later, the e-mail was answered by Carol McDonough of Sandy Cove, "We are so touched by your e-mail and your compassion for the married couples in your company, and would like to offer 10 couples the opportunity to attend and participate in our Sandy Cove Couple's event scheduled for February 8-10, 2008."

For 10 couples the total cost would have been \$4,100. Sandy Cove covered the cost of lodging, meals and the payment to Marriage on the Rock Ministries who put on the program through donations to

one of Sandy Cove's programs called Operation Oasis.

Operation Oasis supports service men and women, returning home from deployment to the Middle East. Each Soldier can come to Sandy Cove with his/her immediate family and stay one week for free.

The event speaker was Dr. Bruce McCracken of Marriage on the Rock Ministries. He discussed various subjects concerning marriage throughout multiple sessions. The sessions were optional but as a whole were entitled, "The 10 Pillars of a Strong Marriage." The pillars discussed a couple's love language, intimacy, forgiveness, communication, trust and many other topics.

From the sessions, Spc. Joshua Halstead and his wife Theresa said they learned that "the goal in marriage is

intimacy. To have intimacy we have to have trust each other and to trust, we have to forgive. Take away any of those and marriage doesn't work."

Apart from the sessions, or if a couple chose not to attend, the Sandy Cove grounds offered nature trails, a rock-climbing wall, hot tub, indoor pool, miniature golf, or a chance to relax and talk, all overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

Five couples from Bravo Company attended and each one left with different experiences. One couple talked all night long, one watched the sun set, one took in a movie, and one couple forgave the past opening the door to start their marriage over.

The common thread for all was that each couple left rejuvenated, happy and with a stronger marriage.

SMDC/ARSTRAT air and missile defense program transitions to PIF

By John C. Robinson
Military Analyst (Missile Defense)
SMDC/ARSTRAT Battle Lab

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. — On March 25, Laurence H. "Larry" Burger, director of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Future Warfare Center handed the Fire Coordination Cell operations manual and technical data package to Patricia T. "Patty" Martin, director of the Engineering Directorate, Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center, U.S. Aviation and Missile Command.

This "passing of the manual" was done as a symbol of the required transition that is a part of the roles and missions for SMDC/ARSTRAT and the FWC. The FCC is required to transition to a functional agency once the technology development is complete, so this transition ceremony was an important event.

From the Army's experience in the first phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School developed the concept of the "Composite Air Defense Battalion." Combining Patriot and Sentinel/Avenger units under a common systems battalion command structure, a unit for the first time was able to fight comprised of complementary systems.

Yet there was a problem with the paired systems: they couldn't communicate with one another. The DCD (Directorate of Combat Development) at Fort Bliss, Texas requested assistance from the Huntsville community, and the SMDC/ARSTRAT Battle Lab [now called the FWC or Future Warfare Center and referred to as the FWC in this article) answered the call.

The "Composite Battalion" concept was to be tested as a Joint experiment during Roving Sands/Joint Red Flag 2005. DCD requested participation from industry and government organizations to demonstrate their capabilities for this experiment. The FWC was the only one to participate.

The FWC deployed with their experimental command and control capability to conduct operations at Fort Bliss where the FWC prototype monitored the skies over the exercise area. The 2-43 Air and Missile Defense (AMD) Battalion deployed to Caliente, Nev. and provided air defense information via this capability to FWC at Fort Bliss. Originally known as the Common Command Post, the FWC product met the majority of the capabilities that DCD needed.

Since that time, the result has been a three-year effort of design, purchase, delivery, and support of six sets of equipment. This new interim capability, today known as the FCC, provides a venue for a dramatic increase in distributed situational awareness for the AMD Battle Staff.

The FCC uses the FWC's AWarE (Advanced Warfare Environment) software, combined with several transit cases of audio, video and networking equipment. AWarE provides a government owned software prototyping environment that has been modified to meet the specific needs of the Composite Battalions. The resulting integrated air picture is distributed to the Battle Staff using four laptop computers and four projected large screen images.

The AMD units typically use two of the

large screens to show their tactical displays of Patriot and Avenger, one with the AWarE display, and one for unit status and administration. The components take four soldiers roughly 45 minutes to set up or break down. All hardware components provided by the FWC are commercial-off-the-shelf while the software is a combination of COTS and GOTS (Government-off-the-shelf). Although an interim capability, the FCC will remain in the AMD battalions until the full materiel solution is achieved. The objective system for AMD command and control is the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Integrated Fire Control System slated to begin full rate production in 2014.

The 2-43 AMD Battalion, under the command of Army Lt. Col. Kelly Spillane, is currently using the FCC to combat terrorism in theater. Spillane served a vital role in the success of the FCC in his previous responsibilities within the TRADOC Capabilities Manager - Lower Tier. He was instrumental in gaining funding and providing program oversight from an air defense prospective. Currently used in the five AMD battalions, with home stations at Forts Bliss and Hood, the FCC also found a home in the Air Defense School's 6th Brigade where it is currently being taught.



Photo by Diane Schumacher

Patricia Martin, director, Engineering Directorate, AMRDEC, AMCOM receives the Fire Coordination Cell operations manual from Larry Burger, director, FWC, SMDC/ARSTRAT on March 25.

As the SMDC/ARSTRAT Battle Lab [FWC] Team Lead, I began the three-year progression for the Roving Sands experiment. When Maj. Gen. Michael Vane, then commanding general, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and commandant, U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery School, determined that the Common Command Post could perform the bulk of what was needed, he directed that this capability be provided to his new AMD battalions.

Selected as Battle Lab [FWC] Program Manager it was my responsibility to get this system into the hands of the Soldiers in these AMD battalions. With William H. "Billy" Stender of CAS, Inc., the project's senior engineer, we began the transition from experiment to a prototype product.

The Common Command Post went through two name changes, first known as the FCC [Fire Control Center] and currently as the Fire

Coordination Cell. Only minor changes have been made to the system since it was established three years ago. Today's FCC is basically the same system demonstrated at Roving Sands. System integration has been performed by AAR-Brown since the beginning of the program.

Alex Vanderwerff, AAR-Brown's Program Manager said, "Our Company is the system integrator for a multitude of Tactical Operations Centers throughout our military. Because of this knowledge we have been able to introduce beneficial changes in the FCC's design."

There have been trying moments through the process. Funding has always been an issue. Even though the six sets have cost the Army only \$3.5 million, it has been hard to find the funds needed. As a prototype, money is basically being taken away from someone else's budget. Then there can be the issue of staffing.

Staffing has been a fluid process, but the right person has always been there when needed. It is never easy to replace a key member of the team, but it's had to be done. This happened within the FCC program more than once. Stender received orders for activation and deployment to Iraq. Don Long with Gray Research stepped in and took Stender's position until he (Long) transitioned into a government position. Then Ronnie Wood of CAS, Inc. took Long's place until he (Wood) transitioned out of the FWC. This occurred around the same time that Stender returned and again assumed the reigns as senior engineer.

These three leaders ensured the overall success of the FCC as a capability desired by the Air Defenders of the AMD battalions. The FCC office has basically been two-deep through the years: the program manager and the senior engineer. This may seem odd for many organizations, but it's been the "unique norm" here and we've made it work.

There have been a number of contractors representing numerous companies who have stepped in when particular expertise was needed, whether it was software development, system integration or training. Success couldn't happen without a great team.

"We have seen our capability progress from a system used in an experiment, to a vital asset within an AMD TOC, and then to a deployed capability," said Stender.

The FCC transitioned its program to the Research, Development, and Engineering Command's (RDECOM), Aviation and Missile Research, Development, and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) Prototype Integration Facility (PIF) at the transition ceremony in early March.

The PIF assumed all functional management tasks for the FCC to include system build, integration, fielding, training, and sustainment.

The Future Warfare Center will retain configuration management of the advanced warfare environment piece of the fire coordination cell and provide assistance to the Prototype Integration Facility as required.

We have come a long way in the last three years — our little shop has something in the field that is making a difference to the Soldier.

William H. Stender, CAS, Inc., senior engineer contributed to the development of this article.

Army to focus more on Family support

By Sgt. Sara Moore, U.S. Army American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Army is doubling its investment in family support programs in the 2009 budget and will use that money to hire support personnel for family readiness groups, improve child care, and expand educational opportunities for spouses and children of troops, the Army secretary said today.

The Army has been building on several years of emphasis on better support for families, Pete Geren told online journalists and “bloggers” during a conference call.

The 2009 budget for family support programs will be \$1.4 billion, up from \$700 million last year. Through traveling to different Army bases and talking with soldiers and spouses, Army leaders have learned that child care and family support are important issues for troops, he said.

“So much of the family support over the years has been

based on volunteers, where you have spouses that carry the heaviest burden for family support initiatives,” Geren said. “One deployment, perhaps that works; two deployments, that’s starting to be too much to ask; and three deployments is pushing those volunteers to the breaking point.”

To remedy this problem, Geren said, the Army will use its expanded budget to hire full-time support personnel for family readiness groups to help spouses who also have to balance career and family responsibilities. The Army also will hire more staff for child care and youth services, he said.

Another important issue the Army is working on is improving career opportunities for spouses of soldiers as they have to relocate around the country, Geren said. The Army has started the spouse employment partnership, working with industry across the country to provide greater spousal employment opportunities, he said, and the

secretaries of defense and labor have entered into a joint venture to expand employment opportunities for military spouses.

Geren added that the Army is seeking to better manage the force so soldiers and their families face fewer moves throughout their careers, to give spouses more opportunities for education and professional development, and to work with employers to identify more opportunities for Army spouses.

“With the economy that we have now, ... there are opportunities today for spouses that wouldn’t have existed a very few years ago,” Geren said. “And as an Army, we need to explore how we can use the Internet economy and use the virtual economy to help spouses, whether their employment skills are blue collar or professional.”

Geren also addressed improvements the Army has made in medical care for wounded soldiers since last year, when problems were

revealed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Army has established 35 warrior transition units, which are aimed solely at helping wounded soldiers recover, and has hired about 2,500 personnel to man those units, he said. Every soldier assigned to a warrior transition unit has three people who are responsible for him — a squad leader, a nurse case manager and a primary care physician — to ensure all that soldier’s needs are met, both physically and mentally, Geren said.

“The whole concept of the warrior transition unit is to provide this triad of support that meets the full range of a warrior in transition’s care and needs,” he explained.

This summer, the Army is launching a program to educate all soldiers on suicide prevention, Geren said. This program is following on the success of the education program on post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, he said, and every soldier will be required to take the course.

ASMDA 2008 Space Camp scholarships available

16 scholarships available. Each valued up to \$1,800! Must apply by May 5.

The Air, Space and Missile Defense Association (ASMDA) is offering 16 scholarships to selected children to attend a one-week Space Camp June 29 – July 4 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Any child, age 9 – 11,

of a parent or guardian currently assigned to SMDC/ARSTRAT, PEO-MS, STRATCOM, MSIC or MDA is eligible. Children of military or government civilians, including matrix personnel, can apply as well as those who are individual members of ASMDA or contractors working for corporate

members of ASMDA. A list of corporate sponsors is available by going to the Web site, www.asmda.us/, and click on the word “members.”

Selection criterion includes a space essay written solely by the child, an interest in science/space, grades, location (goal of two from each location —

Huntsville; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Washington, D.C.; Kwajalein; Alaska; and Omaha, Neb.), and financial need.

The scholarship includes round-trip airfare and unaccompanied minor fee from parent’s work location, transportation to and from Huntsville airport

to the Space and Rocket Center, a Space Camp flight suit and clothing package, a phone card, and a small amount of spending cash.

The deadline to apply is May 5. Applications are available online at www.smdc.army.mil.

Raven: Small UAV for the warfighter

Photos by Sgt. Jack W. Carlson, III, 49th Missile Defense Battalion



Jack Wallin, Senior Systems Analyst, SUAV (Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), explains the components of a Raven SUAV to members of GBI Security Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion. The product manager for unmanned aerial vehicles routinely sends employees to various units, both deployed and in defense of the homeland, to offer training on the systems.



A Soldier launches a Raven Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle on Donnelly Training Area, Fort Greely, Alaska. Thousands of acres are available on Fort Greely, making it an ideal training location for many assets within the United States military. Many new technologies are tested in the rigors of the arctic temperatures by the Cold Regions Test Center located there.



Sgt. Kristian Michael, Military Police Officer, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, conducts his preflight inspections prior to launching a Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle at Donnelly Training Area located on Fort Greely. As a military police officer with the 49th MDB, Michael is responsible for securing and defending the Missile Defense Complex here. The MDC serves as the nations operational arm of its ballistic missile defense capability.

Something new in the military health system

Health.mil – Serving You, Around the World It’s happening! The Military Health System is opening its doors to you! Along with providing military medical news from all over the world, this new Web site invites everyone to share their opinions, ask questions of senior leaders, and participate in dynamic discussion on how the MHS serves the military community, their families and the whole world. Whoever you are, your comments, compliments and criticisms are welcome. We will keep you up to date with new content on www.health.mil on a regular basis. You have an option to receive updates from a list that includes the latest blog entries, news stories, and ASD messages at <http://www.health.mil/Press/RSS.aspx> Visit www.health.mil and see what is new in the Military Health System.

Civilian News

New Army civilian training reporting requirements

New Office of Personnel Management (OPM) regulations require all Federal agencies to report workforce training accomplishments into the OPM Enterprise Human Resource Integration (EHRI) data warehouse. The OPM EHRI report is being submitted monthly for Army civilians. The Civilian Information Services Division (CISD) of AG-1 (CP) creates the report by pulling required data fields from the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System (DCPDS) on completed training instances. There are 26 mandatory fields that are reported monthly for each training history instance for Army Civilians. The CISD, Functional Automation Branch, provides technical support for issues with DCPDS. The Civilian Human Resources Agency, Training Management Division, provides workforce training oversight of Army's monthly submissions by tracking the number of records and the types of training being reported. Army Training reports have been submitted for the entire calendar year 2007 with the most current report sent on January 22, 2008. The January 2008 report included 57,837 instances of training. For calendar year 2007, Army reported a total of 544,560 instances of training to OPM. Usage of the Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS) as well as the Civilian Human Resources Training Application System (CHRTAS) are contributing significantly to Army's reporting efforts. All NSPS training as well as Civilian Education System training completions are being reported to the EHRI system via ATRRS, CHRTAS, and DCPDS. By the end of December 2007, the US Army Corps of Engineers modified their Corps of Engineers Financial Management System to output training completions and update DCPDS. All other existing Army Learning Management Systems were also required to have completed training update capability into DCPDS by December 2007.

DOD rewrites a chapter of Civilian Personnel Manual

Representatives of DoD components met January 23-25, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio to draft the re-write of DoD CPM Chapter 410 (Training, Education, Career, and Professional Development). Mike Okin from the Office of the Assistant G-1 for Civilian Personnel, Policy and Program Development Division, Training and Career Management Team, represented Army at this DoD sponsored workshop. CPM Chapter 410 subchapters include purpose, applicability, definitions, policy, delegations of authority, responsibilities, procedures, implementation of programs, administration, and evaluation. Specific topics included Academic Degree Training, Accreditation, Career Interns, Fellowships, Scholarships and Grants, Mobility Programs, Needs Assessment, Training Plans, Presidential Management Fellows, Professional Development, Strategic Planning, Training Agreements and Training Authorization Form. CPM Chapter 410 has been "off-line" and in the "re-write" stage for the last 5 years. Workshop attendees successfully completed the draft chapter re-write. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) is consolidating comments and clarifications for preliminary review and approval by the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy.

Retirement services hot topics

Visit the new Services Online at www.servicessonline.opm.gov. Log in to find a user-friendly website with enhancements to the design and additional services. Use this website to start, change, or stop your Federal and State income tax withholdings, purchase savings bonds, and obtain duplicate tax statements (1099R's), change your mailing address, sign up for or change your account or financial institution for direct deposit of your annuity payment, and make allotments to organizations, create checking or savings allotments, and view a monthly statement of your annuity. You can also navigate to other web-based retirement information more quickly and easily.

New AKO/DKO version 5.7 upgrade

On 4 June, AKO/DKO will release a new and improved version of the portal. The good news for users is that the migration to version 5.7 will not significantly change the "look and feel" of the portal. Site administrators will see new improvements that will make managing their sites easier. The new version is the result of the "most frequently requested" administrator requirements, the Army Advisory Board, and Joint requirements.

Military News

Commissaries recall products

Commissaries recalled several products that were affected by the recent beef recall. Those products include: 1) HOT POCKETS Philly Steak & Cheese, 8x9 ounce, and HOT POCKETS Croissant Crust Philly Steak & Cheese, 8x9 ounce; 2) Hunt's Meat-Flavored Spaghetti Sauce 26.5 ounces, and Hunt's Manwich Original Sloppy Joe Sauce with ground beef 18 ounces; and 3) Windsor Foods' Jose Ole Mini Beef & Cheese Tacos. In addition, General Mills announced a product recovery of two Progresso Italian Wedding Soup brands, in accordance with the recent Westland/Hallmark beef recall. As a result, commissaries removed the following products from their shelves: 1) Pro Microwave Bowl Italian-Style Wedding, 15.25-ounce bowl; Best-If-Used-By date 05JAN9; and 2) Pro Soup Italian-Style Wedding, 18.5-ounce can; Best-If-Used-By date "12OCT9 - 08NOV9. Consumers can contact the General Mills consumer hot line at 1-800-200-9377. Commissary customers can return the product to the place of purchase for a full refund. For more information, visit the Web site: commissaries.com or contact your local commissary.

Combat pay counts for stimulus payment

Military personnel serving or in combat zones are eligible for an economic stimulus payment. While combat pay generally is nontaxable, servicemembers are permitted to count this pay on their 2007 or 2008 income tax returns, if it helps their eligibility. Servicemembers should report their nontaxable combat pay on Line 40b of the Form 1040A to show at least \$3,000 in qualifying income. Spouses or others with a power of attorney can prepare and file a 2007 income tax return on behalf of servicemembers so that the stimulus payment is received this year. The return must be filed by Oct. 15, 2008. For more information call 1-800-TAX-1040. Read the full article on military.com.

Deployed servicemembers can learn anywhere

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) Afghanistan Campus and Kuwait Campus have played an intricate role in providing students with the opportunity to continue their pursuit of higher education while deployed. ERAU has proven their commitment to these deployed Soldiers by bringing university services to Bagram, Camp Buehring, and other off-site bases and providing students crucial support and guidance. Read the full article at: <http://education.military.com/getting-your-degree/deployed-servicemembers-can-learn-anywhere>. If you are ready to get started "learning anywhere," then your next should be to start looking for a college or university that offers the courses and programs you want with the flexibility you need while deployed.

TRICARE Dental Program

The TRICARE Dental Program was implemented on Feb. 1, 2001. The TDP is a voluntary dental insurance program that is available to eligible Active Duty family members, SELRES (Select Reserve) and IRR (Individual Ready Reserve) members, and their eligible family members. Family members of all active duty uniformed services members, SELRES and IRR members and/or their families may enroll in the TDP. Sponsors must have at least 12 months remaining of their service commitments at the time they or their families enroll. The 12-month enrollment commitment is waived for families of Reservists called to active duty for certain contingency operations if they apply for TDP within 30 days of entry on active duty. Eligibility is determined based on the service member's military personnel information residing in the DEERS (Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System). The uniformed services personnel office reports the information to DEERS. Active duty personnel are not eligible for the TDP. They receive dental care from military dental treatment facilities. Reservists who are ordered to active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days have the same dental coverage as active duty service members. Former spouses, parents, parents-in-law, disabled veterans, foreign military personnel and Uniformed Services retirees and their families are not eligible for the TDP. Enrollment in the TDP is handled by United Concordia Companies Inc., the TDP contract administrator. Enrollment/Change applications are available by calling UCCI at 1-888-622-2256. Online enrollment is available at website: www.ucci.com. Retirees and their eligible family members can enroll in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program which is a premium based program, visit the website, www.trdp.org, for more information for retirees.

“A letter to our Soldiers and Families”

On April 10 the automated e-mail system for the Chief of Staff of the Army, sent to all AKO (Army Knowledge On-line) users the following letter:

“Today, President Bush announced his decision to return to twelve-month deployments in the CENTCOM theater for active Army units. The President’s decision reflects the improved security situation in Iraq – one made possible by your unwavering commitment and willingness to sacrifice – as well as the recognition of the impact of extended deployments on Army Families and our readiness. Today’s policy change will help reduce that strain as we continue to grow the Army and restore balance.

“The Army will reduce “Boots On the Ground” time to no more than twelve months for all active component Soldiers deploying to

the CENTCOM area of operations after 1 August 2008. Soldiers deploying prior to 1 August will complete their scheduled deployments.

“The return to twelve-month deployments does not change the Army’s dwell time policy. This policy is intended to give units time to properly reset and allow Soldiers, Families, and friends to reconnect.

“You have chosen a most noble profession. With your Families standing with you in support, you have borne the increased stress and burden of this war for our Army and our Nation. A grateful Army and Nation thank you.”

Signed: Kenneth O. Preston, Sergeant Major of the Army; George W. Casey, Jr., Gen., USA, Chief of Staff; Pete Geren, Secretary of the Army.

Wanted: Volunteer Reserve Component Soldiers for 2009

The Army is looking for 200 Volunteer Reserve Component Soldiers (USAR, TPU, IMA, IRR, ARNG, or Retiree Recall) who want to volunteer to support the 2009 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC. Sourcing this event at 100% is a top priority. The Army plans, coordinates,

and, provides Department of Defense support to the 56th Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 20, 2009 to honor the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. Active duty units and staffs in the Nation Capitol Region (NCR) have already been tasked.

The Army has published and released an execution order seeking maximum

participation from Reserve, National Guard and Retiree Recall Soldiers. Reserve Component Soldiers are already volunteering.

There are opportunities available for officers (O3-O5) 01A(Officer Generalist) and 46 series MOS's and enlisted (E4-E9) 000 (Enlisted Generalist), 21J, 25 series, 42A, 46R, 63B, 88M, 92Y series MOS's.

- Tours of duty for the Presidential Inauguration range in duration from 30 to 365 days.
- TDY (temporary duty) funding allows volunteers outside of the NCR to participate. Washington, D.C. TDY rates for rations and billeting will be used.
- Contract housing in close proximity to duty location will be made available.

• Opportunities for units that want to volunteer are possible.

Soldiers or unit commanders who want to volunteer should visit <https://wias.pentagon.mil/AFICTours/Secure/AFICTours.asp> for further information.

Source: Army Knowledge On-line

DOD to implement new personnel and pay system in October

www.hrc.army.mil

The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System is a Congressionally-mandated program with efforts spearheaded by the Department of Defense focusing on the Army’s personnel and pay functionality with the Department of the Army (all components globally) scheduled to implement DIMHRS on Oct. 1. All Soldiers and anyone who supervises or provides support to Soldiers will be impacted by this new system.

DIMHRS will provide the Army with an integrated, multi-component, personnel and pay system. The purpose of the new system is to address major deficiencies in the current delivery methods of military personnel and pay services, such as incorrect pay and inaccurate credit of service, which are caused by a myriad of systems with multiple complex interfaces.

Currently, there are separate HR and pay systems for each Army component. In all, there are more than 160 redundant systems, databases, and interfaces. All these different systems have caused several deficiencies, including:

- The inability to track Active Component (AC) and Reserve Component (RC) status changes
- Lack of a single, comprehensive personnel record of service
- Inconsistent processes and data
- Lack of adequate security
- Personnel and pay inefficiencies and inaccuracies and redundant data capture as pay is not currently directly tied to personnel transactions

When developing DIMHRS requirements, the following considerations were made when deciding whether or not to subsume an existing system:

- All systems were carefully evaluated to determine the benefits and risks associated with interfacing with or

subsuming an existing system - in many instances, DIMHRS was customized to replicate a current system process in order to maintain compliance with laws and regulations or because it will be beneficial to do so in the long run from both an economic and/or technological standpoint.

- The second and third order effects of each new business process decision were always considered.
- Functional requirements were articulated in terms of required capabilities, rather than in terms of current business processes.

DIMHRS addresses the major deficiencies in the delivery of military personnel and pay services by integrating personnel and pay processes into one system. DIMHRS integrates Service Member support throughout the entire Army personnel lifecycle, including:

- Accessions
- Permanent and Temporary Assignments
- Compensation
- Termination/Retirement
- Family Status Change
- Leave Processing
- Personnel Records Maintenance (e.g., apply for record corrections)
- Career Planning (e.g., assignment preference statements)
- Transfers (e.g., mobilization)
- Promotions/Demotions
- Honors and Awards

DIMHRS will provide each service-member with a single, comprehensive record of service that will feature a self-service capability that allows the servicemember to update portions of his/her personal information. Personnel records will be available to Human Resource (HR) professionals, combatant commanders, personnel and pay managers, and other authorized users throughout the Army. This web-based HR tool will be available 24 hours a day.

DIMHRS will have two paydays, the first and the 15th of each month and all documents will be electronically signed and routed. DIMHRS will provide:

- An improved and fully integrated HR service to servicemembers and their family members
- Significant decrease in the amount of time needed to complete HR transactions
- Accuracy in Record of Service and pay
- A secure means to conduct an HR transaction in real time
- The ability to conduct multiple self-service transactions
- Streamlined mobilization and demobilization personnel transactions
- Improved customer service
- Introduction to a paperless environment
- Commanders will have a real-time strength report and one database for all human resources functions.

The ADPO (Army DIMHRS Program Office) visited Redstone Arsenal Feb. 6-7 and facilitated multiple briefing sessions to senior leadership, human resource specialists and military personnel. SMDC/ARSTRAT’s Headquarters and Headquarters Company and the G-1 (Personnel) office also had a follow-up briefing on Feb. 20 which further discussed DIMHRS.

All Soldiers must receive the DIMHRS 101 Overview by May 15. Briefing slides can be viewed at www.hrc.army.mil/site/armydimhrs/outreach/briefings.htm. For more information contact the SMDC/ARSTRAT Change Champions Robert Kyniston or Norberto Soto-Fuentes. Either may be reached by e-mail: robert.kyniston@smdc-cs.army.mil in Colorado Springs, Colo. or, norberto.soto-fuentes@smdc.army.mil in Huntsville, Ala.

For full details on this new system visit the DIMHRS Web site at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/ArmyDIMHRS/index.html>.

Flagship

continued from page 1

government is the only agency to ever win this award and it's the only award presented for innovation for geospatial technologies. V.A. was also awarded the 2008 National Governor's Association Public/Private Partnership Innovation Award.

The governor of Alabama and the commanding general of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command made an agreement to have a federal employee working for the military also serve the State, that SMDC/ARSTRAT employee is Goddard. Alabama is the only state to have a Federal/State government employee work both sides. Because of this unique position Goddard has become immersed in the V.A. program.

"Virtual Alabama allows for a great opportunity to train the National Guard and other military units on the capabilities we have," Goddard said, "so if you come into this state, you've got one area you can tie into [Virtual Alabama] to give you a complete look at all of the infrastructure."

Goddard introduced John Buckley, vice president of Programs at AAR-Brown, who provided the scenario of a catastrophic event: a massive earthquake strikes northern Alabama, many buildings have collapsed, all bridges across the Tennessee River are damaged, elevated highways are impassable, cell phone towers are down, and land line based communications are heavily degraded and hopelessly clogged.

The Flagship Experiment would demonstrate the art of the possibility to regain communications, infrastructure and provide rapid support to first responders.

Buckley introduced various local first responders - Huntsville Police, Redstone Arsenal Fire Department, Tactical Emergency Asset Management System (T.E.A.M.S.), 232nd CBCS (Combat Communications Squadron) Alabama Air National Guard, Alabama Department Homeland Security (using Virtual Alabama), 203rd Military Police Battalion Alabama Army National Guard (headquartered in Athens, Ala.), and others - who described what their communications capabilities would be if cell phone are out.

Huntsville Police said there would be patrol officers at "ground zero" to be the eyes and ears. They would assess the



Photo by Diane Schumacher

Moving platform that the HALE is tethered to.

damage, set up inner and outer perimeters, find heavy damage and injuries, set up a command post, perform search and rescue to recover the injured, perform search and recovery of deceased victims and provide traffic control. They would have three main radio frequencies but would be able to only speak with each other and no other first responders.

Redstone Arsenal Fire Department said communication is a problem for them because their radio frequency is different from every one else in town so they would not be able communicate with anyone in town.

"So here we have a bunch of first responders that are independent entities that cannot talk to each other because the comms are down in this scenario (cell phones are out) - the only thing they can do is talk to each other, i.e., police to police, fire to fire, civil patrol to civil patrol, etc." said Buckley.

With the HALE, the communication infrastructure can now be built up, Buckley said.

First responders can be bridged together by satellite telephone. In order to expand that footprint, the state of Alabama has a combat communication unit.

Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Bell is the commander of the 232 CBCS in Montgomery, Ala. His unit is responsible for ensuring that the state of Alabama first

responders can talk to each other during a catastrophe and work in tandem with V.A.

According to Project Manager Army Lt. Col. Dennis Brozek, the HALE aerostat has a dual use, communications and surveillance. "The project capabilities are: 75 feet long and can take 160 pound payload up to 3,000 feet high," Brozek said.

The aerostat can go as high as 300,000 feet but the 'sweet spot' is the 60,000-65,000 foot range to optimize payloads for low winds, above the weather and above threats. This is a good range for communication as well. Wide area surveillance is good at these heights. The Flagship experiment right now is running a single camera which can see 10-15 miles. Better equipment equals better surveillance."

SMDC/ARSTRAT has its own test bed, said Mike Kelly from SMDC/ARSTRAT's Future Warfare Center. "We use test beds to develop and look at emerging and new technologies. We take that to find out if any war fighter gaps have been identified, analyze it, then take it back and show it to them. As with any technology, you have to have connectivity with the old talking to the new."

Alabama has the 203rd Military Police Battalion with the HQ in Athens; it's split up with some MPs in Hartselle, Huntsville, Oneonta, Scottsboro and Springville, Ala.

If the governor or the Adjutant General of the State of Alabama call on them, 500 MPs can be ready within 24 hours. They assist the local law enforcement during state emergencies or natural disasters.

"This has been an experiment of discovery," Goddard said at the close of the briefing. "No one knew what everyone else [local] had in the way of communications for responding to a disaster."

Now local government, local responders and military know what type of communication capabilities each other has and what each other needs in order to be able to talk should cell phone capability be wiped out.

"I report to two bosses," said Goddard. "The thing I have to find is a program that is beneficial to both the war fighter and the first responder [for the state of Alabama]. Also, we will be coming out with a lessons learned that we've taken from this experiment. We will implement those lessons learned in some way and take them to the next stage or put out as a potential program."

It's Election Year — make your voice heard

By Pfc. Jeffrey Domenech
Unit Reporter,
Charlie Company,
1st Space Brigade

LANDSTUHL, Germany — An election year is upon us once again, and once again it is time to select a new President of the United States ... our Commander-in-Chief. Super Tuesday has come and gone, leaving fewer potential candidates. John McCain is the nominee of the

Republican Party.

The Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, are still fighting hard for delegates, and it appears they will continue to battle until the Democratic National Convention in August.

So who will ultimately run for President? Who will be our next President? Well, that is up to us to decide.

Since the members of 1st Space Brigade are located around the world, absentee voting must be employed to make sure every voice is heard.

The Federal Voting Assistance Program (www.fvap.gov) is a great resource in assisting the uniformed services in registering to vote, and every installation worldwide has a Voting Assistance Officer.

The VAO (Voting Assistance Officer) is there to help military members and civilian employees register and vote properly using the absentee ballot system, especially when dealing with elections for Federal Offices (which the Presidency obviously is). However, some

elections (such as state, county, or municipality elections and bills) that take place simultaneously may still require a State Absentee Ballot in order to participate; the rules vary from state to state. Again, the VAO can assist in getting everything in order for everyone to fully participate.

But don't delay. It may still only be April, and the Republican and Democratic Conventions are months away, but it takes time to register and process through the system. The Federal

Voting Assistance Program recommends at least 45 days before the election date, and states will have their own absentee rules that may take additional time to sort through, so it's worth it to get the process started early. That way, every voice is heard, and none are left out ... every uniformed service member overseas has given their lives to serve our country, and their voices deserve to be heard as well.
Be sure to VOTE!

Local area high schools earn drill team Junior ROTC awards

By Marco Morales
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

HARVEST, Ala. — More than 100 Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from nine local and surrounding area high schools participated in drill team competition here in overcast skies and chilly weather April 5 at Sparkman High School.

The 5th annual event, dubbed "Sparkman Senator Classic" a JROTC Drill Competition, drew support from several mid-grade and senior noncommissioned officers assigned to Redstone Arsenal's Non-Commissioned Officer Academy who acted as evaluators in validating drill and ceremony executions throughout the day.

Also providing support for the event was Col. Kendal W. Cunningham, deputy chief of staff for operations (G-3), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (SMDC/ARSTRAT), as he and Sparkman High

School Principal, Manuel Wallace, presented the awards to winning individuals and JROTC teams.

Wallace stated that JROTC is a critical part of the school. The attributes of JROTC contribute a great deal to the overall campus atmosphere. The event, coupled with the JROTC program throughout a school's curriculum, provides the cadets with a chance to demonstrate the skills they've learned and obtain organizational skills they normally wouldn't develop elsewhere, according to (retired) Lt. Col. Elliott M. Cunningham III, senior Army instructor, Sparkman High School.

"The JROTC program and events like the drill competition definitely provides cadets with stress management skills, gives them 'hands-on' opportunities in leading others, helps them to learn how to establish priorities, and teaches them team-building skills," Cunningham said. "I don't know of too many places that can offer a young person these types of skills

early on in their lives."

Sparkman's JROTC cadets planned, organized and executed the event under the supervision of (retired) 1st Sgt. Walter Jones. Jones has served as an Army instructor with Sparkman High School for more than eight years.

Cunningham, who has taken over the JROTC program at Sparkman since March, has more than 22 years of service as an Army officer in the field artillery branch. After retiring from active duty in 2006 from the Army, he served as professor of military science at Alabama A&M University. And, before coming to Sparkman High School, he served as the interim dean of students at the same university.

The overall winners were: first place, Huntsville High School; second place, Lanett High School and third place, J.O. Johnson High School. The event was attended by families and friends of the JROTC cadets and the community as well.



Photos by Marco Morales
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Left — Cadet Capt. Jamal Johnson of the Lanett High School "Golden Knights Drill Team," (center) proudly accepts one of several awards from Manuel Wallace (left), principal of Sparkman H.S., and Col. Kendal Cunningham, deputy chief of staff for operations (G-3), U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command during the ceremony conducted at the Sparkman High School gym April 5.



Above — Huntsville High School Drill Team cadets stand in formation awaiting further announcements of ongoing awards presentations during the April 5 ceremony inside the Sparkman High School gym. The cadets from Huntsville High School were part of the day's drill team competition.

Left — 1st Sgt. Brown Clay of Columbia High School speaks with cadets from Lanett High School of Tenn.

MDA awards the Ronald Reagan Award to RADM Wayne E. Meyer

By Kristen Smith, MDA Shield

At a ceremony on April 2, 2008, Rear Admiral (retired) Wayne E. Meyer accepted the Ronald Reagan Award for his extensive career as the Father of the Aegis program. More than 900 of the delegates from the 6th Annual US Missile Defense Conference attended a dinner to honor him. The occasion also celebrated the 25th anniversary of President Reagan's March 23, 1983 speech that launched the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). The SDI program is a predecessor to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) which began, in turn, the Missile Defense Agency. The keynote speaker, The Honorable John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics noted both the accomplishments of the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS) and RADM Meyer's extensive contributions to the Aegis program.

Wayne E. Meyer enlisted in the US Navy while in high school in May 1943, as

apprentice seaman, three weeks after his 17th birthday.

During twenty years of active duty, he sailed in seven warships of five different types. He was on active duty for over four decades, retiring as Rear Admiral December 1985.

In recent years he is widely recognized as the Father of Aegis, the cornerstone of the present United States Navy.

After serving in numerous ships, he served ashore in crucial leadership roles in the Bureau of Ordnance and as Director of Engineering at the Naval Ship Missile Systems Engineering Station, Port Hueneme, Calif., manager of



Courtesy Photo

Retired Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer speaking at ceremony in his honor April 2, 2008.

Aegis Weapons System, project manager for Surface Missile Systems, and director of Surface Warfare, Naval Sea Systems Command.

Selected for Admiral in 1975, he became the continuing founding project manager, Aegis Shipbuilding. In 1983 he was reassigned as deputy commander, Weapons and Combat Systems, Naval Sea Systems Command, where he remained until his retirement in 1985.

RADM Meyer will be adding the Ronald Reagan Award to the long list of honors he was awarded during his lengthy career: a Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, a China Service Medal, a World War II Victory Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation. He was also the recipient of numerous engineering awards.

Rear Admiral Meyer's greatest recognition occurred recently when he received one of the U.S. Navy's highest honors. The Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations, ADM Mike Mullen, announced that the Aegis destroyer DDG 108

would bear his name.

Rear Admiral Meyer chairs and serves on numerous panels and committees, including seven years on the National Ballistic Missile Defense Advisory Committee, including three years as its Chairman; he was also involved with the Surface Navy and the Missile Defense Agency in developing ballistic missile defense capability for the nation's Aegis fleet of cruisers and destroyers.

Today RADM Meyer lives in Virginia with his wife, Anna Mae and step-son, Edward, and operates an engineering consultancy. His late wife, Margaret, was ship's sponsor, and his granddaughter, Peggy, the Maiden of Honor for the AEGIS Cruiser LAKE ERIE (CG 70).

The Secretary of the Navy has honored his wife, Anna Mae, as sponsor for his namesake, DDG 108, with his daughter, Paula, step-daughter Anna, and daughter-in-law, Nina, as her attendants. He has three other children (Paula, James and Robert), two step-children (Anna and Edward) and four grandchildren.